

Feedback Re: Increased Consumer and Family Participation in VSH Futures

- Outside of the core advocacy stakeholders, most of Vermont (i.e. MH providers, consumers and family members) does not know much about VSH Futures
- Meetings could be made more accessible for consumers:
 - Committee Chairs need to ensure that meetings are facilitated in such a way that allows everyone to provide input
 - Some participants in meetings can be non-welcoming in subtle ways
 - Transportation, stipends for time and food (e.g. lunch), water & snacks at meetings, etc. should be available
 - Use of email conversations/discussions can hard to follow and overwhelming
 - Content being presented can be very complex and detailed, making it hard for someone who is not immersed in the content to participate in discussion; however, sometimes the content and discussion needs to be very complex and detailed
- Given the sheer number of meetings, it is hard for existing Committee members to attend numerous meetings beyond Advisory Committee meetings
- There are specific individuals we should contact directly and invite
- We should send out letters of invitation and/or meet with and invite members of 1) Local Program Standing Committees, 2) Recovery Workgroup, 3) DMH-Funded Peer Run Programs, 4) VPS and NAMI Boards, 5) VPS support groups
- We should create a consumer & family review board to serve as entity for consumer and family input on all of the projects
- We should recruit one or two people from each catchment area to be responsible for recruiting consumers and family members to participate. This could be a member of the local standing committee or it could be a member of the existing VSH Futures Advisory Committee
- We should use the upcoming meeting (March) of the Local Program Standing Committees to educate and recruit participants
- The members of the State Standing Committee are too busy to take on more responsibility re: Futures
- We need more involvement from VPS and NAMI on the various subcommittees and/or help from VPS and NAMI finding consumer and family participants.